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25X1A

TOPIC KVP in the Rathenow Area

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 15 to 25 March 1953

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 22 April 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

1. From 16 to 20 March 1953, the former Plant II of the ROW in Rathenow was still occupied by an estimated 200 to 230 KVPs who wore blue service color. On several days, the troops engaged in group drill with small arms in the billeting area. Jeeps and trucks drove into the installation on 18 March. A second low temporary barracks building was nearly completed in the billeting area.

2. From 15 to 24 March, source learned from a VP who belonged to the unit stationed in Rathenow that, between 15 and 21 March, three units in the strength of 120 men each from Plant II departed for Eggesin. The troops were allegedly to be quartered in a tent camp, about 3 km off Eggesin. Major Hemmer, the commanding officer of the unit in Plant II remained in Rathenow with a small rear detail. Source also learned that Major Franke was the commander of the KVP in Premnitz, and that further transfers of KVP units to Burg and Leipzig were planned.

3. On 24 and 25 March VPs trained with 2 x 45-mm AT guns on the premises of the former Plant II on Stalin Allee, Rathenow. Other groups received infantry training. KVP conducted a field exercise with live ammunition in the wooded area of Schollene, Fischbeck and Grosswudicke on 24 March. Mortar firing was heard.

1. Comment. Deserters stated that the artillery battalion of the 2d Mecz Regt of the mechanized division in Eggesin, the bulk of which was stationed in Premnitz, was stationed in Rathenow. Only the tank battalion of the division in Eggesin remained in its quarters in Karpin southeast of Eggesin during the winter. As Premnitz and Rathenow were provided for as winter quarters only, it may be true that elements of the 2d mechanized Regt transferred to the area of Eggesin in late March. Information on the transfer of other elements of the mechanized division in Eggesin from their winter quarters was contained in It is doubted that components of the 2d Mecz Regt should have been moved from Premnitz and Rathenow to Burg and Leipzig respectively.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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